

CROSS WALK: *Forgive Without Limits*

Pastor Bill Bowers | February 11, 2017

SERMON NOTES

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35 (NLT)

1. Jesus Christ mandates forgiveness.
 - You are not saved because you forgive. You forgive because you are saved!
 - Forgiveness is the decision to release a person from the obligation that resulted when they injured you.
2. We must forgive again, and again, and again. (vv. 21-22)
3. We forgive because:
 - Rationalizations are foolish. (v. 22)
 - Failure to forgive is so destructive. (v. 28)
 - God's forgiveness demands it. (v. 32)
 - The alternative is terrifying. (vv. 34-35)

This is what we do. (Ephesians 4:31-33)

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HOMEGROUP & PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

1. “Jesus mandates forgiveness” is a statement that Pastor Bill shared with us in this week’s teaching. What is your first response to this? Are there qualifying offenses that you might find unforgiveable? Please discuss your thoughts.
2. Why do you think the act of forgiveness is so difficult for some offenses? Why do you think forgiveness (giving or receiving) is do difficult for some people?
3. Although Jesus infers forgiveness is without limit (Matthew 18:22), do you think there is a limit to an act of forgiveness?
 - What if a person continues to abuse your grace and forgiveness?
 - What if a person continues to perpetrate the same or other acts of offense against you or people you care for?
 - What if a person continues in self-destructive behavior?
 - What if a person never asks for forgiveness or thanks you for offering them forgiveness?
 - What are your personal criteria and limits to your forgiveness?
4. Do you think the lack of our ability to forgive is an unforgiveable offense to God (see Matthew 6:15, 18:34-35)?
5. Is there someone who needs your forgiveness; is there something that needs to be reconciled in your life? What will you do? How is God inviting you to respond?